

The Agenda and Council Meeting of the City of Lower Burrell was held on Monday, July 1, 2019 at 6 PM. Roll call indicated the following present: Councilman Grillo, Councilman Fabry, Councilman Hamilton, Controller Farina, Treasurer Eshbaugh, Chief Tim Weitzel, Solicitor John Rushford, and City Administrator Amy Rockwell. Absent were Councilman Koziarski, Zoning/Ordinance Officer Michael Nedley, and Mayor Callender.

AGENDA MEETING

- A) Susan Hockenberry – Reimagining our Westmoreland.
- B) Discussed people not leashing their dogs while at Kotecki Park.
- C) Discussed 2019-2020 Winter Municipal Snow Removal Agreement.
- D) Discussed Memorandum of Agreement regarding School Resource Officer. The School Board decided to stay with the School Resource Officer rather than go with private security. The split is 70/30.
- E) Discussed repairs to the memorial in front of Stewart School. The plaque has fallen off the memorial wall. Representative Bob Brooks, the VFW, and American Legion have committed funds for the restoration.
- F) Discussed donation toward the startup of the Tri-City Historical Society.
- G) Anything else that comes before Council.

The Agenda meeting finished.
The Council meeting started at the conclusion of the Agenda meeting.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Treasurer’s Report for June 2019.
Collection Service Center.
Engineering Report from Senate Engineering.

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

Councilman Grillo: The monthly and a year to date report for building permit and correspondence for ordinance violations was on file as well as the occupancy inspection report for June 2019. Councilman Grillo took a moment to thank and remember New Kensington’s Fire Chief Ed Saliba.

Councilman Hamilton: Jeff Fleming will be starting July 8, 2019 and will be a Director of Public Works and Parks. Through a pro bono evaluation put together by Ms. Rockwell, recommendations were taken and created this position. Councilman and Mrs. Hamilton recently welcomed the birth of their daughter, Quinn. He expressed thanks to Amy Rockwell and Michelle Hatbob for being instrumental in the transition period and holding the department together during a critical juncture. He had the jobs completed report for June. He questioned whether a budget was received from the library.

Councilman Fabry: Councilman Fabry had Councilman Koziarski’s report. The fireman’s carnival was a large success, and he thanked everyone who volunteered. Brenda McAllister and her Girl Scout troop has cleaned up the butterfly garden at Kotecki Park. New lights were added to the concession building. Because of vandalism, a sink was replaced at Burrell Lake Park. To curb vandalism, the public is urged to call 911 if seeing something suspicious. He had a listing of events that will take place at the parks in the upcoming weeks. The Farmers Market is every Saturday through October. He complimented Mr. Bud Myers for the excellent job in coordinating the Farmers Market.

As Director of Finance, Councilman Fabry updated everyone on the status of the budget. The audit report has been completed and the general fund came back under projected expenses which is fantastic. The sewer fund finished over the projected revenue. He thanked Ms. Rockwell for the way the budget is prepared and for discovering that the sewer fund was in danger of being in serious debt. He thanked all the department heads for the way they are managing their departments money and said the City is fiscally responsible.

Chief Weitzel: Chief Weitzel had no report but told everyone that the Burrell Baseball Tournament will be held at the ABC Field and will be bringing thousands of people through the City.

City Administrator Rockwell: A challenge was received from Westmoreland County regarding the assessment of the Walgreen’s property at 108 Greensburg Road; a bill will be issued for supplemental taxes. The audit draft has been received and is being reviewed. She thanked Michelle Hatbob for her work in Public Works during the transition of Scott Johnson leaving and before Jeff Fleming arriving. Ms. Hatbob’s job description has changed as she is working more operationally and has become the first point of contact. She walked with Mr. Pitsch from Edgecliff Road to MacBeth and back. The seal coating list of 21 roads has been reviewed and will be ready for Mr. Fleming. The need for replacing a truck was discussed. There have been discussions with the bank regarding the purchase. She gave an update on the construction progress. Council discussed a change order to add floor drains to the locker rooms. They indicated to move forward with the change order.

Solicitor Rushford: He spoke of the Walgreen’s tax appeal which resulted in a nice increase for the City. He’s been working on the volunteer tax credit for the fire department. It needs to be determined what qualifies a volunteer as well as what type of tax. DUI checkpoints and the Pennsylvania Supreme Court decision will need to be covered by an inter-municipal agreement.

Treasurer Eshbaugh: Per Capita bills were mailed. School taxes will be mailed August 1, 2019.

Controller Farina: No report.

OLD BUSINESS:

None

NEW BUSINESS:

- 1) Motion by Councilman Hamilton, second by Councilman Grillo to approve the Council meeting minutes from June 3, 2019. Roll call vote indicated: Councilman Hamilton: AYE; Councilman Grillo: AYE; Councilman Fabry: AYE. 3 “AYES.” All in favor.
- 2) Motion by Councilman Grillo, second by Councilman Hamilton to accept the Treasurer’s Report and pay all bills. Roll call vote indicated: Councilman Grillo: AYE; Councilman Hamilton: AYE; Councilman Fabry: AYE. 3 “AYES.” All in favor.
- 3) Motion by Councilman Grillo, second by Councilman Hamilton to approve Resolution # 8-2019 - Acknowledging and Accepting A Grant of Funds from The Westmoreland County District Attorney’s office And Governing the Expenditure of Funds. Roll call vote indicated: Councilman Grillo: AYE; Councilman Hamilton: AYE; Councilman Fabry: AYE. 3 “AYES.” All in favor.
- 4) Motion by Councilman Grillo, second by Councilman Hamilton to approve the first reading of Ordinance # 4-2019 - Joinder and Participation in an Intergovernmental Police Mutual Aid Agreement with Other Municipalities for The Training, Deployment and Compensation of Specially Trained Officers (STO) for the Purpose of Responding to Police Emergency Situations. Roll call vote indicated: Councilman Grillo: AYE; Councilman Hamilton: AYE; Councilman Fabry: AYE. 3 “AYES.” All in favor.
- 5) Motion by Councilman Grillo, second by Councilman Hamilton to approve the second reading of Ordinance # 4-2019 - Joinder and Participation in an Intergovernmental Police Mutual Aid Agreement with Other Municipalities for the Training, Deployment and Compensation of Specially Trained Officers (STO) for the Purpose of Responding to Police Emergency Situations. Roll call vote indicated: Councilman Grillo: AYE; Councilman Hamilton: AYE; Councilman Fabry: AYE. 3 “AYES.” All in favor.
- 6) Motion by Councilman Grillo, second by Councilman Hamilton to offer of full-time employment to Dominic Ravotti upon the successful completion of his probationary period. Officer Ravotti came to our department with a lot of experience. He is a very high functioning police officer and we are fortunate to have him. It is Chief Weitzel’s opinion that he be made full-time officer. Chief Fabry commented that he is a welcome asset to the City. Roll call vote indicated: Councilman Grillo: AYE; Councilman Hamilton: AYE; Councilman Fabry: AYE. 3 “AYES.” All in favor.
- 7) Motion to reappoint David Kristof to the Planning Commission will be moved to August’s meeting.
- 8) Motion by Councilman Hamilton, second by Councilman Grillo to offer Michelle Hatbob full time employment effective July 1, 2019. Councilman Hamilton commented that Ms. Hatbob is a welcome addition and sorry it could not be done sooner. Roll call vote indicated: Councilman Hamilton: AYE; Councilman Grillo: AYE; Councilman Fabry: AYE. 3 “AYES.” All in favor.
- 9) Motion by Councilman Hamilton, second by Councilman Grillo to approve 2019-2020 Winter Municipal Snow Agreement with Pennsylvania Department of Transportation. Roll call vote indicated: Councilman Hamilton: AYE; Councilman Grillo: AYE; Councilman Fabry: AYE. 3 “AYES.” All in favor.
- 10) Motion by Councilman Grillo, second by Councilman Hamilton to approve Memorandum of Agreement regarding School Resource Officer. Roll call vote indicated: Councilman Grillo: AYE; Councilman Hamilton: AYE; Councilman Fabry: AYE. 3 “AYES.” All in favor.
- 11) Motion by Councilman Grillo, second by Councilman Hamilton to donate \$500 to the repair of the veteran’s memorial at Stewart School. Roll call vote indicated: Councilman Grillo: AYE; Councilman Hamilton: AYE; Councilman Fabry: AYE. 3 “AYES.” All in favor.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Ruth Hereda, 289 Broadway Avenue discussed two letters she received from the City regarding her property and the construction of the Broadway Bridge Project. She had pictures on her phone that she shared with everyone on the dais. She is concerned with the condition of homes in Kinloch. Burning was also addressed.

Rick Bates, 200 Eastern Drive has a ditch in front of his house that holds water. The recent rains have exacerbated the problem. He also had complaints about the condition of various businesses in Lower Burrell.

Jacob Lydick, 2096 Spooky Hollow Road owns and operates a commercial drone firm. This was a recent police matter when neighbors expressed a concern for their privacy. He is trying to operate his business in a safe and profitable way.

ADJOURNMENT:

With no further business coming before council, a motion was made to adjourn the meeting.

Amy S. Rockwell, City Administrator

Richard Callender, Mayor

NEXT REGULAR AGENDA AND COUNCIL MEETING
Monday, August 5, 2019 at 6:00 PM